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Myth ADVENTURES!™

APPLE COMICS

WARP GRAPHICS

OUT OF THE INN BIZ

Helen Fung ©86

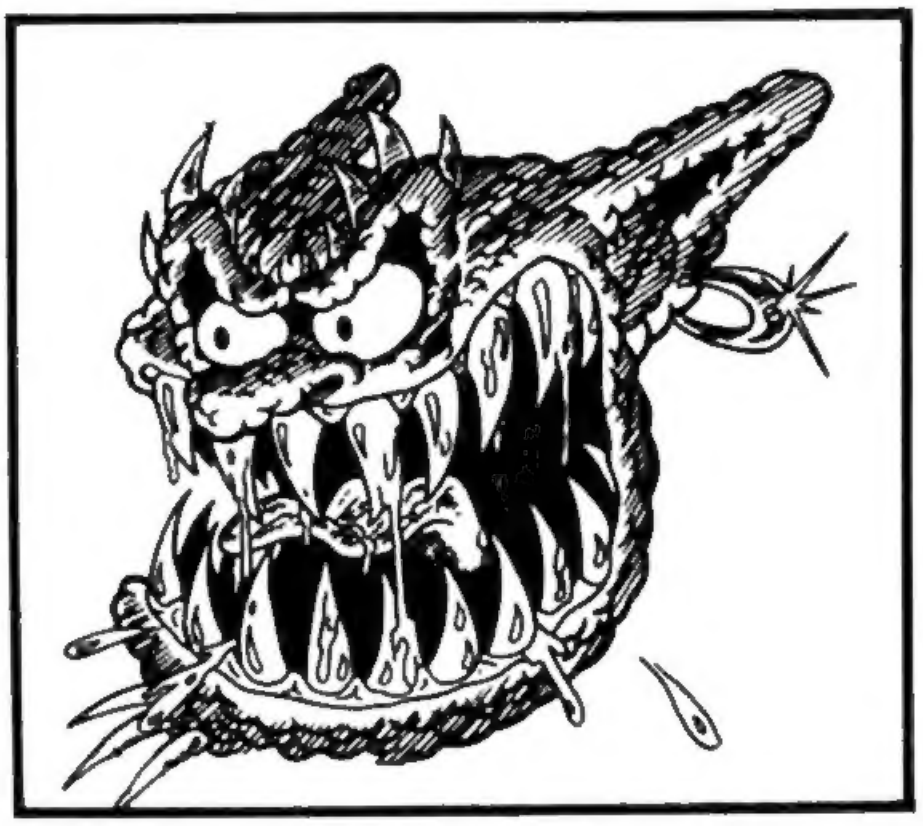
Matter of Opinion

So really, now, why *do* you buy comic books? Note that I didn't ask you why you read comic books, just why you buy them. I'm curious. I figure that some of you will answer that it's because you like to read them, some because they're an investment, some because you don't want to terminate the complete run of this or that title you own.

I'm curious because, having been in this business — independent comics — for about as long as anyone has been, lately I wake up once or twice a week with the feeling that the screws are loose in the machinery. It's starting to gibber and drop parts here and there. The patterns and logic by which we all used to gauge what we do in this trade seem to have gone askew, and I'd like to see if some new motifs are evolving — and if so, how long they may last.

Possibility #1: some months ago there aired a segment of the news show *20/20* that presented a look at what's going on at Marvel Comics during this, its 25th anniversary year. It was a tidy little commercial, essentially, yet surprising for its lack of coverage of Marvel's major push, the "New Universe." DC Comics has gotten a lot of press as a result of its wholesale rewrite of history via *Crisis on Infinite Earths,* and more recently with its revampings of Batman and Superman. Do you think these innovations and changes are permanent? Legitimate? Do you believe them?

Possibility #2: Produce a parody book and become an instant success. The attention garnered by a quartet of martial arts turtles seems to have (a) inspired



any number of new publishers to take the field, (b) triggered a wave of questionable speculation in the collector's market the likes of which I've never seen, and (c) given rise to some quite detestable advertising over-employing the adjective "hot." Some of these comics are good, many are pretty mediocre. All of them are highly touted, and the print runs always sell out. What's going on in your mind, ultimate end user?

Mutant mania. Adjective adjective adjective noun title parodies. Clone books selling 80,000 copies while innovative titles sell a tenth of that. Why *do* you buy what you buy? I'd like to know. Write to me at: WaRP Graphics/ Opinion, 5 Reno Road, Poughkeepsie NY 12603.

See you in 60.

Richard

Myth ADVENTURES!™

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OUT OF THE INN BIZ

I TELL YOU, MY DEAR, IT'S SIMPLY THE *PERFECT* PLACE TO STOP ON OUR WAY TO THE *COAST.*
I'M *SURE* IT IS.
YES, YES. THE PROPRIETOR IS A *MASTER* AT ACCOMMODATING *NOBILITY.*
IS HE?
YES, AND YOU'D BE *HARD-PRESSED* TO FIND *ANYONE* MORE PATIENT OR *CALM*...

MYTHADVENTURES

WHAT AM I GOING TO *DO*?

HOW AM I GOING TO GET *OUT* OF PAYING ALL THESE *FINES*?

SNAP

I KNOW!

I'LL *RAISE* THE PRICES ON *EVERY-THING!*

NO, *THAT'S* NO GOOD. NO ONE'S *BUYING* ANYTHING ANYWAY...

...BESIDES, *THAT'LL* ONLY *RAISE* THE TAXES...(SIGH)

HOWL

SAY, WAIT UP A MINUTE.

I DON'T THINK YOU FULLY APPRECIATE THE *SEVERITY* OF OUR SITUATION HERE.

IT'S ME!

IT'S IT

IT'S ME!

IT'S YOU

OF *COURSE* I DO!

WELL, ALL RIGHT THEN, YOU CAN SEE *WHY* WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOU TO *PAY UP!*

O.K., THE DEAL WE *USUALLY* HAVE IS THE INN GETS 10% OF OUR PROFITS.

FINE. WHAT DOES THAT USUALLY COME TO?

I DUNNO. USUALLY WE'RE ABOUT 10% *IN THE HOLE.*

LET'S [illegible] AROUND

GO

THIEV

WORLD

NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE!!

HOW CAN ANYONE RUN A BUSINESS WITHOUT MAKING A PROFIT?

WE'RE A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION!

THEN HOW DO YOU PAY YOUR SALARIES?

SALARIES? WE DON'T HAVE SALARIES!

YOU COULDN'T PAY ANY-ONE TO DO THIS JOB...

...WE'RE VOLUNTEERS.

Meanwhile up in the Hospitality Suite...

ANYONE FO[R] ILK SIN

I LOVE CONS!

AND SO I[T] IS IN THE REALIZA[TION] OF BEAT

WOW! WE'RE IN THE SAME ROOM AS C.R. BUS!

WHO WILL BE TH' NEW AVENGER?

WHO CARES?

I DO.

ANY CHICKS IN HERE?

HE'S SO PROFOUND

MAYBE I CAN PICK UP [SOME] POIN

BITCHEN

WHERE'S THE BEER?

COME TO ME, MY LITTLE DAR[LING]

ZOMBIE LUST

MR. BUS!!

[PA]THETI[C] [LO]VE STORIE[S] #622

LET THE FLEET FINGERS OF A MASTER SOOTHE YOUR TROUBLES AWAY...

"FAILS TO CAPTURE THE FULL TEXTURE OF HIS PREDECESSOR..."

HAS ANYONE GOT AN ASPIRIN?

THAT'S ASPRIN, BUB.

SORRY, BUDDY, THIS IS A *PRIVATE* PARTY.

Y'*CAN'T* COME IN *HERE* WITHOUT A *BADGE*.

ARMAGED BLOWOU

PARTY!

BUT I *OWN* THIS PLACE.

SORRY... YOU *STILL* NEED A *BADGE*.

DR. WHO

DR. NO

HMM, I COULD JUST *LEVITATE* THIS GUY UP TO THE CEILING AND KNOCK HIM *OUT*...

... OR *CLOUD* HIS *MIND*...

NO, *THAT'LL* NEVER WORK...

...I *KNOW!*

SECURITY

HEY, LOOK! VENUSIANS!!

WHERE?

HEY! IT WORKED!

TERRIFIC!

HUH?

SKEEVE! I'M SOOO GLAD TO SEE YOU!

KITTEN!?!

I...

...THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH...

OH, DON'T BE SILLY!

I ONLY WANT TO BE WITH YOU.

...ALONE...

UM...

UH...

CATCH MY DRIFT?

SORRY, HONEY, BUT HE'S SPOKEN FOR.

URK!

WHO?

TANANDA!

HI YA, SWEETCAKES.

BONG

YOU DIDN'T *FORGET* ME WHILE I WAS *GONE* NOW, DID'JA?

UM...ER, AH, NO, OF COURSE NOT.

TELL HER TO GO AWAY, SKEEVIE.

UH, TANANDA, HAVE YOU MET KITTEN YET?

KITTEN? HOW CUTE...

CRAZY WORLD AIN'T IT

SHE LOOKS MORE LIKE AN OCTOPUS TO ME.

HEAVEN, I'M IN HEAVEN

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN TEAR YOURSELF AWAY FROM HER, "SKEEVIE"?

UH, SURE THING, TANANDA.

WOW! THIS MUST MEAN SHE REALLY DOES LIKE ME, AFTER ALL!

YOU DON'T NEED HER, SKEEVE, I'M HERE.

GOOD, BECAUSE I WANT TO TALK TO YOU...

...ALONE.

OOOOOOF!

I WAS

THUNK!

HEE, HEE, HEE. THEY *ALWAYS* COME BACK!

OH, NO.

BADGES.

CAN'T LET YOU IN WITHOUT BADGES.

BUT...

ONE OF THESE DAYS WE'VE *GOT* TO TALK ABOUT YOUR *TASTE* IN *WOMEN*...

I MEAN, EVEN FOR A *KHLAO*...

UH, WELL, THAT WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE CON FLINGS, Y'KNOW!

MAGEDDON WOLIT

UNH-HUH.

...SPUR OF THE MOMENT... EXCITEMENT OF THE CROWD..

HMM... IS *THAT* WHAT ALL OF *THIS* IS, A *CONVENTION*?

YEAH, A COMIC-CON.

ONE OF *AAHZ'S* GET-RICH-QUICK SCHEMES?

YEAH. HOW'D *YOU* KNOW?

IT FIGURES.

SO, HAVE YOU MADE ANY *MONEY* OFF OF IT?

NO.

IN FACT, WE'RE IN THE HOLE BY *MY* FIGURING.

...WHAT WITH ALL THE *TAXES* AND *VIOLATIONS* AND STUFF...

AND *NOW* IT LOOKS LIKE THE CON ISN'T GOING TO *PAY* US!

SOUNDS PRETTY *DISMAL*, SWEET-CHEEKS.

HMM... THERE *MUST* BE AN *EASIER* WAY TO TURN A PROFIT - EVEN IN *THIS* BACKWATER DIMENSION.

LOOK, DO ME A *FAVOR*, HANDSOME, DON'T TELL *AAHZ* I WAS HERE.

BUT...

I'M GOING TO FIND YOU SOME *REAL* MONEY.

BUT... BUT I THOUGHT WE, I MEAN... YOU AND ME, WERE...

MAYBE *NEXT* TIME, LOVER. 'BYE' NOW.

'BYE BYE.

SIGH

OH, WELL, MAYBE *KITTEN* IS STILL...

THUMP!

HUH?

RIGHT *THIS* WAY, GENTS.

ARF! ARF! ARF!

YOU PROMISED TO SETTLE UP OUR ACCOUNT.

OH, I WILL. I WILL.

SNAP

POP

MUNDEN'S BAR

AAHZ BEING NICE?

HE MUST BE UP TO SOMETHING...

HERE YOU ARE, GENTLEMEN.

HEY! WHAT ABOUT OUR PERCENTAGE?

SNAP

POP

YEAH!

YEAH!

CACKLE

WHY, GENTLEMEN, DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT A PERCENTAGE OF ZERO IS...

CKLE

POP

SNAP

SLAM!!

NOTHING!!

POP

THERE! THAT TAKES CARE OF THEM!

NOW IF I COULD ONLY FIND A WAY TO GET RID OF THE REST OF THESE...

WELL, YOU COULD TRY TO GET GLEEP BACK!

GLEEP?! WE'VE GOT THE *TAXMAN* BREATHING DOWN OUR NECKS! A *HUNDRED* VIOLATIONS OF VARIOUS ORDINANCES! AN INN *FULL* OF *DEADBEATS*! AND ALL YOU CAN THINK OF IS THAT *STUPID DRAGON*!!

HE'S SOMEONE *ELSE'S* PROBLEM NOW — GOOD *RIDDANCE* TO HIM!!

LET SOME-ONE *ELSE* CLEAN UP AFTER HIM!

HEY! THAT'S *IT!*

SNAP

THANKS, *AAH!* YOU'RE A *GENIUS!*

I KNOW.

...*WHAT?*

SO YOU REALLY LIKE YOUR NEW DRAGON, HUH?

OH, YOU BET! BEST *MASCOT* A COMPANY *EVER* HAD!

HOPE YOU HAVEN'T *FED* HIM YET.

YEAH, *WHY?*

UH-OH

WELL, I HOPE YOU'VE GOT A *BIG* SHOVEL!

UH, NO...

WHY?

'CAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO *NEED* ONE...

...AND SOME *HEAVY DUTY NOSE PLUGS*, TOO!

UH, YOU MEAN, UM...

SENSAWONDA

UNH-HUH.

OH NO! HERE, TAKE HIM BACK BEFORE HE, UH...

RUINS MY MERCHANDISE.

GLEEP!

HA! HA! HA! I KNEW I'D GET YOU BACK, BOY!

ISN'T IT THE MOST QUAINT PLACE, YET?

IT LOOKS VERY CALM, DEAR.

OH, IT IS! YOU'LL SEE, MY DEAR, IT'S EVERYTHING I SAID IT WOULD..

...BE?

OH, MY.

IT APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF CONVENTION.

A COMICS CONVENTION!

HMM...

(SIGH) REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE FANS?

HMMM.

I MUST FIND THE PROPRIETOR.

DUKE!

BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE *YOU!*

WHO'S *THIS?*

HE'S THE *MAGICIAN* I TOLD YOU ABOUT...

SLEEVE OR SOMETHING...

YOUNG MAN, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY *WIFE*...

THE *DUTCHESS OF DREAMBERRY!*

CHARMED.

HI.

CAN YOU *HELP* US, *DUKE?*

I DON'T KNOW. WHAT'S THE *PROBLEM?*

IT'S THIS CONVENTION, YOUR DUKESHIP.

I'M GOING TO BE IN THE *ART SHOW,* DEAR.

WELL, IT *IS NOISY,* AND QUITE *CROWDED.* *I'D* ASSUME YOU'D BE DOING A *GREAT* BUSINESS.

WELL, NO OFFENSE, YOUR DUKENESS, BUT YOU'D ASSUME *WRONG.* THEY'RE *NOT PAYING* FOR THE USE OF THE INN, THEY'RE *ALL* STAYING IN *ONE ROOM* AND *THAT'S* NOT TO MENTION THE *TAXMAN!*

TAXMAN?

YUP! CAME THROUGH HERE AND GOT US ON WHO KNOWS HOW MANY *VIOLATIONS!!*

HMM... YES I DO BELIEVE I *CAN* BE OF SOME *HELP*...

OH, *GREAT!*

I'VE BEEN *WORRIED* ABOUT WHAT *AAHZ* WILL DO.

...FOR A *PRICE.*

...I'LL *NEVER* GET OUT FROM UNDER THIS.. ...I'LL OWE UNTIL THE DAY I *DIE*... I'VE *GOT* TO GET *OUT* OF THIS DIMENS...

HEY AAHZ!

LOOK WHO'S *HERE!*

YOU?

YOU STARTED ALL THIS!!

AAHZ, NO!

WE *NEED* HIM!

WHY

HE CAN *HELP* US GET OUT OF *THIS!*

HOW?

VERY SIMPLY, REALLY.

BUT I WILL NEED REMUN-ERA-TION FOR MY EFFORTS.

WHAT DO YOU *WANT?*

THE INN.

WHAT?

LEMME AT HIM I'LL KILL 'IM!!

NO, AAHZ! HEAR HIM OUT!

TELL *HIM* WHAT YOU TOLD *ME*, DUKE. AND *HURRY*! I *CAN'T* HOLD HIM BACK MUCH LONGER.

GROOOO

EK-TUALLY, IT'S *VERY* SIMPLE...

ERLIN

NOBILITY CANNOT BE TAXED!

IT *FIGURES!*

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SAY I SIGN THE INN OVER TO YOU— WHAT DO *I* GET OUT OF IT?

... FINALLY, YOU AND YOUR APPRENTICE STAY HERE AS MY AGENTS AND COLLECT A *PERCENTAGE* OF FUTURE PROFITS — *TAX FREE!*

FIRST— YOUR TAX BILL BECOMES *MOOT*. SECOND, I CLEAR YOUR INN OF ALL THIS *RIFF-RAFF*.

FIFTY PERCENT.

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. TEN. NON-NEGOTIABLE.

TEN? NEVER!

FINE.

I HOPE YOU ENJOY DEBTOR'S PRISON.

DEBTOR'S...

AAHZ, WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE- WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIS OFFER.

...BUT... BUT...

...TEN PERCENT??...

...I'M GLAD MY MOTHER'S NOT HERE TO SEE THIS...

DUKE!

WE'LL TAKE IT!

EXCELLENT.

I'LL BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY.

YOU THERE! YOU, I SAY!

ARE YOU THE TAX ASSESSOR?

WHOM WANTS TO KNOW, MY GOOD MAN?

PINCHPINI— DUKE PINCHPINI.

YES, M'LORD...

... HOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE TO YOU?

YOU CAN LIFT THE VIOLATIONS ON THIS INN.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, YOUR LORDSHIP, THAT CANNOT BE DONE.

REALLY?

EVEN THOUGH I NOW OWN THIS ESTABLISHMENT?

UH, WELL, ER... HARUMPH! IN THAT CASE...

THERE'S A GOOD MAN.

...LET ME ESCORT YOU OUT.

I'LL BE SURE TO PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU WITH KING RODERICK.

GOOD DAY, TO YOU, SIR.

THAT'S ONE DOWN.

YEAH, ONLY A COUPLE HUNDRED MORE TO GO!

NOW THEN, WHERE IS THE CONVENTION ORGANIZER?

OVER THERE...

...THE GUY WITH YOUR WIFE!

THINK YEW.

...BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MA'M, WHAT IS YOUR OBJECTION?

ELVES!

UH, AHEM!

MISTER CONVENTION ORGANIZER?

I SAY, YOU AND YOUR, AH, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO VACATE THE PREMISES.

SAY WHAT?

I'VE GOT A CONTRACT, BUDDY.

NOT ANYMORE YOU DON'T - NEW OWNERS, YOU KNOW.

AND AS THE NEW OWNER I INTEND TO RAISE THE PRICE OF FLOOR SPACE...

TRIPLE IT, EK-TUALLY.

..."AND I INTEND TO *RAISE THE TAX ON EVERYTHING SOLD IN THIS ROOM* FROM THIS MOMENT FORWARD *BY 98 PERCENT!!!*"

KISS ME, I'M ITALIAN

'BYE, WIN.

GREAT CON!

'BYE 'BYE

BEEN *FUN!*

SEE YA, CAP'N.

S'LONG NOW.

CIAO

ADIOS.

NEXT YEAR

WOW!

PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, I *MUST* ADMIT.

AHEM

ISN'T HE JUST THE *BEST!?*

M...MY CON...

OK, LET'S SEE YOU TRY AND GET RID OF THOSE **DEAD-BEATS** UPSTAIRS!

A **CHALLENGE**? I SIMPLY **LOVE** A CHALLENGE.

I'LL BE DOWN **DIRECTLY.**

HARUMPH!! THIS I'VE **GOT** TO **SEE!** HE'LL **NEVER** GET RID OF **THEM!**

I DUNNO, **AAHZ,** HE'S MADE A **BELIEVER** OUT OF **ME.**

MY FANS!

THIS IS CATAS-TROPHIC!

FLAT EARTH SOCIETY

HOW CAN I UNVEIL MY NEW **PLOT-TWISTS** WITHOUT MY FANS TO **FAWN** OVER THEM?

DID'JA (H'C) KNOW YER OUTTA BOOZE?

WE'RE GONNA (H'C) GONNA FIN' S'MORE

GREAT PARTY.

SEE YA =(BURP)=

OH, WELL, I GUESS THE PARTY'S OVER! 'BYE, SKEEVE, I'M GOING TO **MISS** YOU.

I'M GOING TO MISS YOU, TOO, **KITTEN.**

=SIGH=

WHERE WILL YOU GO NOW?

OH, I'LL PROBABLY JUST FIND GOLDIE. SHE'S ALWAYS GOT SOMETHING GOING.

YEAH, WELL, IF YOU EVER PASS THIS WAY AGAIN...

I'LL BE SURE TO LOOK YOU UP, BIG BOY! BYE!

B...B... B... BYE.

THINK CLEAN THOUGHTS, KID!

AHEM!

SATISFIED?

YEAH, WELL, I'M SURE GLAD I DIDN'T BET AGAINST YOU.

HOW DID YOU DO IT ALL SO FAST?

WE OF THE UPPER CRUST LEARN FROM AN EARLY AGE HOW TO DEAL WITH THE LOWER CLASSES.

SHALL WE GO, MY DEAR?

NOW, MAKE CERTAIN YOU MAINTAIN AN *ACCURATE* ACCOUNT OF YOUR *TRANSACTIONS.*

OH, I *WILL,* YOUR DUKENESS.

...AND *DON'T* TRY TO *CHEAT* ON MY ROYALTIES.

ME?!

I'M A *BEAN COUNTER* BY TRADE, YOU KNOW.

WELL, TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY INN, FELLOWS.

'BYE, DUKE!

TOODLE-LEE-OO!

SEE YA, 'ROUND YOUR DUKEST.

QUICK, KID, LET'S GET *INSIDE*, WE NEED A *NEW STRATEGY.*

AAHZ, HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON ABOUT *GET-RICH-QUICK-SCHEMES*, YET?

NO, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL *WRONG*, KID. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT *NO ONE* EVER STAYS IN THIS *INN AGAIN*.

WHAT?!

... BUT *I* THOUGHT INN-KEEPING WAS A "CUSHY" JOB.

DON'T *START* WITH ME, KID.

I WANT YOU TO COME UP WITH A DISGUISE FOR ME THAT'S SO *DISGUSTINGLY HORRIBLE* NOT EVEN MY *MOTHER* WOULD COME WITHIN *TEN FEET* OF ME!!

I'M *WARNING* YOU - DON'T *PUSH* IT!!

SO, IN *OTHER* WORDS YOU WANT TO LOOK *NORMAL*.

OK, OK - *SHEESH!* CAN'T YOU EVEN TAKE A *JOKE?*

THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES - *YOU* NEED A DISGUISE, TOO!

WHY *ME?*

LOOK, KID, BY NOW *EVERYONE* KNOWS THAT THERE'S A *MAGICIAN* LIVING IN THIS INN...

MY PLAN IS TO CREATE A DISGUISE THAT WILL MAKE THEM *FEAR* THAT MAGICIAN.

HMM...

AND HIS =(AHEM!)= *APPRENTICE?*

DON'T PUSH IT, *SKEEVE.*

"FORM A MENTAL IMAGE OF *BOTH* OF US..."

HMM... OK.

"ALL RIGHT, NOW, *CONCENTRATE.*"

=(UNNGH)= O.K.

PERFECT, KID. SIMPLY PERFECT!